



Tempe Public Art



IN FLUX - Cycle 5

**Hugo Medina &
Kira Olsen**

Baseline Gardens, 2015

Paint, black lights, fabric

Location:

Tempe Marketplace
2000 E Rio Salado Parkway

Artist Website:

www.HugosArt.com

Photo: Sean Deckert

IN FLUX is a multi-city program launched as an initiative for temporary, site-specific installations in vacant spaces. Occupying new locations every cycle, these dynamic projects offer new perspective on the connections between community organizations, local businesses, artists and audiences. IN FLUX provides a unique opportunity for artists to expand their skill-sets, innovatively apply their creativity, and garner public recognition for their work. influxaz.com

Description: *Baseline Gardens* is a celebration of Arizona's historic farms owned by Japanese-Americans from post-World War II until the 1980's. The flower gardens once stretched over 300 acres along Baseline Road and also included citrus and vegetables. *Baseline Gardens* is a series of 14 storefront windows that seeks to create a visual journey through the original gardens. Ten windows are filled with brightly colored murals of flowers painted free-hand in acrylic and spray paint. Four windows feature a starry backdrop with landscapes painted in acrylic and fluorescent paint that glow with the use of black lights.

Artist biography: Hugo Medina is an artist, muralist, and community arts activist based in Phoenix. He received a BFA from CW Post/Long Island University, and a Master's in Education from University of Phoenix. Medina has taught numerous art classes, founded afterschool art programs, developed community gardens, and was the co-founder of the Calle 16 mural project. Now a full-time artist, he continues to organize community programs and events and assume seats on local arts boards and commissions.

Kira Olsen is a self-taught photographer who has travelled and photographed all over the United States. A former child chess prodigy, Olsen draws on her analytical skills developed through chess to conceptually visualize stories and human emotion in her artwork. Her passion is shooting in natural light settings, capturing the vivid colors of nature, and time capsules of old buildings. Olsen is currently pursuing a degree in Forensic Science while teaching chess.

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